

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An interface device for establishing an interface
2 between a CPU and an external unit, comprising a timer
3 portion, a mask portion and an interrupt controlling,
4 wherein:

5 said timer portion asserts a mask signal when
6 detecting that a wait signal outputted from said external
7 unit is kept asserted for more than a predetermined period
8 of time,

9 said mask portion masks said wait signal and outputs
10 it to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted; and

11 said interrupt portion issues an interrupt signal
12 to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted.

1 2. An information processing system comprising a CPU
2 and an interface device for establishing an interface
3 between said CPU and an external unit, wherein:

4 when said interface device detects that a wait signal
5 outputted from said external unit has been kept asserted
6 for more than a predetermined period of time, said
7 interface device masks the wait signal for outputting to
8 said CPU and issues an interrupt signal to said CPU.

1 3. An information processing system according to Claim
2 2, wherein said interface device comprises a timer portion,
3 a mask portion and an interrupt controlling portion,
4 wherein

5 said timer portion is activated when the wait signal
6 outputted from said external unit is asserted, and then
7 asserts a mask signal when said wait signal is kept
8 asserted for more than a predetermined period of time;

9 said mask portion masks said wait signal for
10 outputting to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted;
11 and

12 said interrupt controlling portion issues an
13 interrupt signal to said CPU when said mask signal is
14 asserted.

1 4. An information processing system according to Claim
2 3, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby
3 to recover said external unit.

1 5. An information processing system according to Claim
2 2, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby
3 to recover said external unit.